

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2 and 5-15 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,227,636 (hereinafter, "Lye") in view of U.S. Patent No. 2002/0190620 (hereinafter, "Vardon"). Claims 1-2, 5-8 and claims 11-15 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lye in view of Vardon and U.S. Patent No. 2001/0030491 (hereinafter, "Maruta"). Applicant submits the following in traversal.

Rejection of Claims 9 and 10 under §103(a) over Lye in view of Vardon

Applicant submits that claim 9 is patentable because Lye and Vardon fail to teach or suggest a refrigerator wherein the first side surface of the glass supporter and an exterior side surface of the first bracket form a substantially flush exterior side surface, in combination with other elements of the claim. In the rejection, the Examiner cites the surface denoted as "Item C" in the shelf of Vardon, in an annotated copy of Fig. 2 in the Final Office Action, as corresponding to the claimed first side surface of the glass supporter, and the upper edge of the third part 18 as corresponding to the claimed first bracket, both of which allegedly form a substantially flush exterior surface. Applicant disagrees.

First, the surface denoted as Item C and the upper edge of the third part 18, as shown in an annotated copy of Fig. 2, below, does not form a substantially flush exterior side surface.

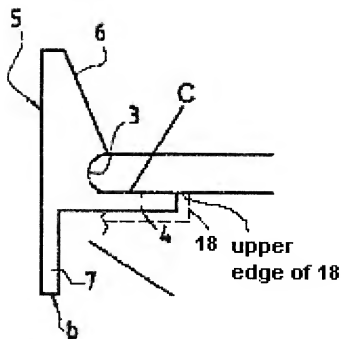


Figure 2 of Vardon (annotated and modified for simplicity).

Rather, as shown in the drawing above, Item C and the upper edge of the third part 18 form a surface that is covered by the glass panel.

Even if the Examiner is arguing that the side surface of the third part 18 (i.e., the surface specifically referred to by the lead line for reference no. 18 in the modified Fig 2 shown above) forms a substantially flush exterior side surface, such a surface still does not disclose the claimed substantially flush exterior side surface because the side surface of the third part 18 is not formed by Item C and is not an exterior surface, but is an interior surface.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, claim 9 is patentable.

Claim 10, which depends from claim 9, is patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 10. In addition, claim 10 is patentable because Lye and Vardon fail to teach or suggest a refrigerator wherein the glass supporter is disposed between the first and the second brackets.

Although the Examiner points out that “at least a portion of the glass supporter” is disposed the first and the second bracket, Applicant disagrees in that claim 10 does not recite that at least a portion of the glass supporter is disposed between the first and the second brackets.

Rejection of claims 1-2, 5-8 and 11-15 under §103(a) over Lye in view of Vardon and Maruta

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable because Maruta teaches the use of a screw 30, a screw fastening hole 11b1 and a boss 11b in a direction normal to the orientation of the flat surfaces that are being joined, i.e., the flat surface of the front cabinet 13 and the flat surface of the flat picture screen 21. Such a normal direction would be vertical when applied to the shelf of Vardon. Claim 1, however, recites a coupler comprising a plurality of screws horizontally penetrated into the plurality of penetrating holes, and thus, claim 1 is patentable.

Claims 2, 5-8 and 15 which depend from claim 1, are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 1.

In addition, Applicant submits that claim 8 is patentable because Lye, Vardon and Maruta fail to teach or disclose a refrigerator wherein the glass supporter is disposed between the pair of brackets.

Applicant submits that claims 11 and 12 are patentable for reasons similar to those submitted for claims 8 (glass supporter being disposed between the pair of brackets) and 9 (a substantially flush exterior side surface).

Claims 13 and 14, which ultimately depend from claim 11, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 11.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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